

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
BEFORE THE RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION**

**In re: Christopher Willi,
Respondent**

**Complaint Nos. 2017-4
& 2017-5**

ORDER

This matter having been heard before the Rhode Island Ethics Commission on September 26, 2017, pursuant to Commission Regulation 1011, and the Commission having considered the Complaints herein, the Respondent's Answer, and the proposed Informal Resolution and Settlement, which is incorporated by reference herein, it is hereby

ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED

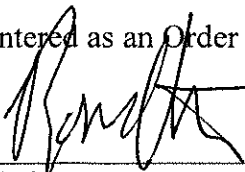
THAT, the Commission approves the Informal Resolution and Settlement as submitted; and

THAT, the Commission incorporates by reference herein the Findings of Fact and Admissions, and the Conclusions of Law, set forth in the Informal Resolution and Settlement;

THAT, by submitting a letter to the New Shoreham Town Council, the public body of which he is a member, arguing for the disqualification of the first person on the charter slip waiting list, the Respondent represented his own interests in violation of Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-5(e).

THAT, the Respondent is ordered to pay a civil penalty in the amount of One Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$1,250).

Entered as an Order of this Commission,



Chairperson

Dated: September 26, 2017

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
BEFORE THE RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION**

**In re: Christopher Willi,
Respondent**

**Complaint Nos. 2017-4
& 2017-5**

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
ETHICS COMMISSION

INFORMAL RESOLUTION AND SETTLEMENT

The Respondent, Christopher Willi, and the Rhode Island Ethics Commission (“Commission”) hereby agree to a resolution of the above-referenced matters as follows:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT & ADMISSIONS

1. The Respondent was first elected to the New Shoreham Town Council (“Town Council”), a municipal elected position, in November 2016 and has served continuously in said capacity at all times relevant hereto.

2. In his private capacity, the Respondent is the owner of Block Island Fishworks LLC, a retail tackle shop and fishing charter business.

3. At all relevant times, the Respondent was the third person on the waiting list to receive a charter boat slip in Old Harbor, an historic district in New Shoreham, Block Island. A charter slip became available in April 2017 and was assigned to the first person on the waiting list.

4. The Respondent submitted a letter dated April 28, 2017, to the Town Council of which he is a member, arguing that the Town Council should disqualify the first person on the waiting list because he failed to satisfy local residency requirements. If the first person were disqualified, the Respondent would move up one spot on the waiting list.

5. The Respondent’s letter was placed as an item for consideration on the Town Council’s May 17, 2017 agenda and was discussed and voted on. The Respondent recused from participating in the Town Council’s discussion of and vote on his letter and exited the room during

said discussion and vote.

II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. As a member of the New Shoreham Town Council, the Respondent was, at all relevant times, a municipal elected official subject to the Rhode Island Code of Ethics in Government ("Code of Ethics"), pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-4(1).

2. By submitting a letter to the Town Council, the public body of which he is a member, arguing for the disqualification of the first person on the charter slip waiting list, the Respondent represented his own interests in violation of Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-5(e).

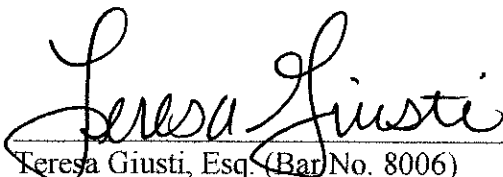
III. SETTLEMENT


Pursuant to the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the parties hereby agree, subject to the approval of the Commission, to the following, pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-13(d) and Commission Regulation 1011:

1. The Commission shall enter an Order and Judgment that the Respondent violated Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-5(e).

2. The Respondent agrees that the Prosecution will recommend the imposition of a civil penalty in the amount of One Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$1,250.00). The Respondent agrees to the payment of said civil penalty.

3. The above terms represent the full and complete Informal Resolution and Settlement for Complaint Nos. 2017-4 and 2017-5.


Teresa Giusti, Esq. (Bar No. 8006)
Commission Prosecutor
Dated: 9/25/17


Christopher Willi
Respondent
Dated: 9/18/17